

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3391

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 4203

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG PINR

SUBJECT: STATUS OF ARRESTED FIGURES

REF: A) STATE 084877; B) STATE 077316

1. FOLLOWING ARE NAMES, DISPOSITION AND SOME PERSONAL INFORMATION ON REPORTEDLY DETAINED LOCAL FIGURES.

2. MILITARY FIGURES: THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE REPORTEDLY PLACED UNDER A FORM OF DETENTION ON 14 APR AT FAZ MILITARY BASE AT KAMINA. LOCAL SOURCES DESCRIBE THE DETENTIONS AS BEING FAR LESS STRINGENT THAN HOUSE ARREST. THE SOLDIERS ARE SAID TO BE CONFINED TO A VILLA NEAR THE BASE RADIO CENTER.

A. COL MAMPA SALAMAYI. MAMPA IS FROM BANDUNDU. MAMPA WAS MOST RECENTLY CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY. PRIOR TO THAT HE HAD BEEN 2ND -IN-COMMAND AND COMMANDER OF THE GENDARMERIE. MAMPA HAS BEEN STATIONED FOR A TIME IN SHABA DURING HIS TENURE WITH THE GENDARMERIE. RECENTLY HE WAS OPERATIONS COMMANDER IN SHABA. MAMPA HAS BEEN DISSATISFIED WITH THE HANDLING OF THE SHABA INVASION. HE IS THOUGHT TO BE RESPECTED BY GENERAL BABIA. HE IS REPUTED TO HAVE SUPPORTED GIZENGA AT STANLEYVILLE.

B. COL MAMINA LAMA (LAURENT). HE IS A LULUA FROM KASAI OCCIDENTAL. HE IS APOLITICAL, BUT A PROTEGE OF GENERAL BABIA'S. HE HAS BEEN ZAIRIAN MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON FROM WHICH HE HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FOR CONSULTATIONS. HE WAS, IN 1975, OPERATIONAL

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COMMANDER IN ANGOLA.

C. LT. COL F.J.M. BOYO. BOYO IS A SHABAN FROM KANZENZE. HE IS THOUGHT TO BE THE SOURCE FOR THE EARLIER SUPPOSED SIGHTINGS OF CUBANS AMONG THE SHABAN INVADERS. HE WAS COL MAMPA'S DEPUTY. HE FOUGHT WITH THE KATANGANS UP TO 1964 WHEN HE RECANTED.

D. MAJOR OHANO (EX-PIERRE MEDARD) IS A STAFF OFFICER FOR LOGISTICS. HE IS ORIGINALLY FROM KASAI OCCIDENTAL. HIS SPECIFIC

ETHNIC AFFILIATIONS ARE NOT KNOWN.

E. COL MUTONO MUSAMBO ULELEMA (EX-JEAN PIERRE). MUTONO IS A SHABAN, BORN IN LUBUMBASHI. HE IS OF UNKNOWN ETHNIC ORIGINS. HE WAS ONCE HEAD OF SODEMAZ, A PARASTATAL ORGANIZATION THAT SERVICES AIR FORCE PLANES. MOST RECENTLY HE WAS ASSISTANT TO GENERAL BABIA FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF DDN. HE HAD BEEN MOL-ONGYA'S DEPUTY AT DDN. MUTONO WAS THE LEADER OF THE FRIENDSHIP AND AMITY DELEGATION TO THE PRC LAST YEAR.

F. COL BENDERA. BENDERA IS UNKNOWN TO THE EMBASSY. HIS LAST KNOWN DUTY ASSIGNMENT (UNTIL JAN 17) WAS AS DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL AND STATISTICS AT DDN. HE WAS REPLACED BY GENERAL BABIA. SUBSEQUENT ASSIGNMENT UNKNOWN.

3. CIVILIAN FIGURES REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED:

A. CIT. KAYEMBI (EX-BAUDOIN) AZAP JOURNALIST, STRINGER FOR UPI AND A GERMAN NEWS AGENCY, REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN EXECUTED FOR COLLUSION WITH THE CUBANS. HE PRESENTLY DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGES. HE IS A MUKONGO, A FORMER MEMBER OF ABAKO AND A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF KASAVUBU. HE HAS BEEN ARRESTED BEFORE.

C. KIMPIOMBI (YVON) HAS BEEN DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGES. HE IS FROM KWILU AND WAS A FORMER MEMBER OF PSA/K AND FOUNDER OF UDECO. (UNION DEMOCRATIQUE CONGOLAISE.)

D. MUNGUL-DIAKA (BERNARDIN). PRESENTLY DETAINED. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE BAMBALA ETHNIC GROUP FROM KWILU. FORMER MEMBER MNC/L, SERVED IN GIZENGA GOVERNMENT, STANLEYVILLE. LATER MEMBER OF PSA/K. HE HAS BEEN ARRESTED IN THE PAST.

E. NZEZA-LANDU (EDMOND). DIED WHILE DETAINED 4/28/77. HE
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WAS A MUKONGO FROM BAS-ZAIRE. HE WAS THE PRESIDENT/FOUNDER OF THE ABAKO PARTY.

F. TUMBA TUNKADI (THOMAS DELPHIN) WAS BORN IN BAS-ZAIRE. HE IS A MUKONGO, AND FORMER MEMBER OF ABAKO, HE IS LARGELY APOLITICAL. PRESENTLY HE HAS NO KNOWN PARTY AFFILIATIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE MPR. TUMBA HAS BEEN RELEASED AFTER 11 DAYS OF DETENTION.

G. CIT. MWEPU, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS ATTACHE. HIS DISPOSITION IS NOT KNOWN. EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT MOBUTU WAS VERY UNHAPPY WITH FOREIGN PRESS TREATMENT OF INVASION AND ZAIRE, DURING EARLY STAGES OF INCURSION. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MWEPU IS BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE.

H. MUNONGO (GODEFROID). MUNONGO IS 6TH MWAMI OF THE BAYEKE, A SHABAN ETHNIC GROUP. HE IS A FORMER MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN BOTH TSHOMBE'S KATANGAN AND KINSHASA GOVERNMENTS. HE WAS MOST RECENTLY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SOCIETE/ZAIRI-ITALIENNE DE RAFFINAGE (SOZIR). HE HAS ALSO BEEN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ONATRA. HE HAS BEEN ARRESTED IN THE PAST. HE IS A FOUNDER OF CONAKAR (CONFEDERATION DES ASSOCIATIONS TRIBALES DU KATANGA).

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4. COMMENT:

A. MILITARY: THERE IS NO SINGLE THREAD THAT TIES TOGETHER THE ARRESTS OF THESE SOLDIERS. HOWEVER, SIMILARITIES DO EMERGE WHICH CAN LEAD TO SEVERAL SCENARIOS, OF WHICH TWO ARE PLAUSIBLE. (1) SOURCES CLOSE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DDN) HAVE INDICATED THAT THE DETENTIONS ARE LINKED TO THE SHABAN ORIGINS OF SOME OF THE SOLDIERS. EMBASSY KNOWS THAT TWO OF THE INDIVIDUALS ARE SHABANS AND A THIRD, MAMINA, LIVED FOR A PERIOD IN SHABA AS A CHILD. THE OTHERS, EXCEPTING POSSIBLY BENDERA, ORIGINATED IN AREAS THAT ARE TRADITIONALLY SUSPECT IN MOBUTU'S EYES; BANDUNDU AND THE KASAI. (2) A SECOND POSSIBILITY IS AN ORCHESTRATED MOVE BY MOBUTU TO UNDERCUT THE POSITION OF THESE OFFICERS. ALL THESE MEN ARE CONSIDERED TO BE GOOD MILITARY OFFICERS. COL. MAPA IN PARTICULAR IS HELD IN HIGH REGARD BY LOCAL BELGIAN MILITARY OBSERVERS. IT IS PLAUSIBLE THAT THE ZAIRIAN OFFICERS IN QUESTION WERE DISPLEASED WITH THE SLOPPY CONDUCT OF THE WAR. IN MAMPA'S CASE THIS IS KNOWN TO BE TRUE. SUCH DISPLEASURE COULD HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED AS POTENTIAL UNDERPINNING OF AN OFFICERS REVOLT, IN GENERAL AGAINST THE REGIME OR SPECIFICALLY AGAINST HIGHER-UPS IN THE FAZ. SUCH SIMMERING ANGER IN THE MIDDLE OFFICER RANKS COULD HAVE PERSUADED MOBUTU IT WAS TIME TO ASSERT HIS AUTHORITY AND DERACINATE ANY INCIPIENT COLONELS' CLIQUE. ON THE OTHER HAND, MOBUTU MAY HAVE SIMPLY DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO INSTILL SOME INSECURITY AMONG THE OFFICERS. IT IS COMMON FOR SOLDIERS TO BE PERIODICALLY DETAINED, APPARENTLY TO CHASTISE THEM AND UNDERLINE THE TENUOUSNESS OF THEIR

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POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE PRESIDENT.

B. CIVILIANS: AMONG THE CIVILIAN ARRESTS A MORE MANIFEST PATTERN SEEMS TO EMERGE. WITH THE EXCEPTIONS OF THE TWO PRESS RELATED ARRESTS ALL THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE NOW ECLIPSED OLD PARTY LEADERSHIP. LUYEYE, NZEZE-LANDU, AND TUMBA ARE ALL FORMER ABAKO MEMBERS AND ARE ALL BAKONGO. KIMPIOMBE AND MUNGUL-DIAKA ARE BOTH FROM KWILU, ASSOCIATED WITH THE PSA (PARTI SOLIDAIRE AFRICAINE) AND CLEOPHAS KAMITATU. AND FINALLY, MUNONGO WAS A MEMBER OF THE OLD CONAKAT PARTY. MOBUTU HAS SHOWN REPEATEDLY HIS DEEP-SEATED SUSPICIONS OF BOTH THE OLD ABAKO ELITE AND THEIR PARALLEL IN KWILU. PRESENTLY RUMORS ARE RIFE THAT PROMINENT BAKONGO, REGARDLESS OF PAST POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS, IF ANY, ARE PRIME TARGETS FOR ARBITRARY DETENTION.

MUNONGO'S POSITION IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF HIS OTHER COLLEAGUES. HIS ARREST IS PROBABLY RELATED TO HIS PREVIOUS INCARNATION AS THE MOST FERVENT OF KATANGAN SECESSIONISTS. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS IMPRESSION THAT HIS FERVOR HAS DISSIPATED, HE HAS NOT REMAINED WATCHED FOR MANY YEARS. HE WAS DETAINED AS RECENTLY AS 1975. MOREOVER, UNTIL HIS RETURN TO SHABA FROM KINSHASA FOR HIS CORONATION, IN SEPTEMBER, 1976, IT IS THOUGHT THAT MUNONGO

HAD BEEN FORBIDDEN TO RETURN TO SHABA.

THE TWO JOURNALISTS' POSITIONS STEM FROM OTHER SOURCES. THE GOVERNMENT LINE ON KAYEMBE IS THAT HE COLLUDED WITH THE CUBANS. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON MWEPU. HOWEVER, IT IS PLAUSIBLE THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE SUSPECTED TO HAVE PASSED DEPRECATORY INFORMATION ON TO THE FOREIGN PRESS. IT IS KNOWN THAT MOBUTU HAS GROWN INCREASINGLY ANGRY WITH THE DEPICTIONS OF THE SHABAN FIGHTING, FAZ (FORCES ARMEES ZAIROISE) AND ZAIRE IN THE FOREIGN MEDIA. IT IS NOT IMPLAUSIBLE THAT HE HAS DECIDED TO TRY TO STEM THE TIDE OF INFORMATION BY CREATING EXAMPLES.

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